

August 8/9, 2009

"John the Baptist: Preparing the Way"

- 1. Everywhere we go the way has been prepared. A hike, cross country trip, the store, and even planes and boats travel a regular path.**
- 2. God doesn't want anyone to miss THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE so He chooses a Faith Action Hero, John, to announce that Jesus is here.**
Luke 1: 8-20
- 3. To prepare the way for Jesus, John is compelled to speak the truth no matter what it costs.** *Luke 3:7-20*
- 4. Through humility, John knows his purpose is to identify Jesus as the Savior.** *Matthew 3:13-17*
- 5. As Jesus now does His ministry, John gets out of the way.** *Mark 6:14-16*

We can be Faith Action Heroes like John the Baptist:

- 1. By accepting our call to bring people to repentance and faith in Christ.**
John 15:14-16
- 2. By living a life that reveals Christ; holy, full of integrity, full of grace with no self-righteousness.** *1 Peter 1:13-16*
- 3. By sharing our story about what Christ has done and is doing in our lives.** *John 4:39-42*
- 4. By loving others the way they need to be loved, especially in their moment of need.** *Luke 6:30-33*
- 5. By obeying Christ's command to be baptized and publically declaring your faith in Him to your friends and family.** *Matthew 28:19*
 - A. Believing men and women were baptized in the early church.** *Acts 8:12*
 - B. John the Baptist used baptism with repentance to point to Jesus. Christians today are baptized to re-enact the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as an action witness, demonstrating our belief that we are free from our sins.** *Romans 6:3-7*

Discussion questions:

- 1. What place have you gone to because someone else recommended it? How did they prepare the way?**
- 2. From your life experiences, in what ways were you prepared to receive Jesus as Lord? What are some of the most effective ways you are preparing others to receive Him?**
- 3. How did your baptism demonstrate your belief in Jesus and that you are free from your sins? How did your life change after baptism?**